

# 2004 Report of Accomplishments

## Whidbey Island Conservation District



### Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- Completed 17 farm plans and 1 forest plan for local landowners to implement best management practices that will reduce erosion, improve soil quality, improve wildlife habitat, reduce contaminated run-off, and enhance groundwater recharge.
- Conducted 33 farm site visits to provide recommendations and address specific resource issues.
- Assisted two landowners who qualified and received services for Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
- Nominated a Whidbey Island Wildlife Steward of the year.
- Continued a water quality monitoring program to gather data regarding water quality changes in areas where Best Management Practices are targeted.
- Implemented extensive public information and outreach program through workshop, event, press release, postings, collaboration with local organizations and public presentations.



### Mission of the Whidbey Island Conservation District

The Whidbey Island Conservation District serves residents of Whidbey Island in conserving natural resources through educational outreach as well as technical and financial assistance to provide a healthy environment for present and future generations.

### Water Quality Implementation

- On the Krug Farm along Maxwellton Creek on South Whidbey, WICD is in process of cost-share funding over 1000' of exclusion fencing with an average 25' buffer along the creek to keep livestock out of the salmon stream.
- One surface drainage system, one brush management system, and two roof runoff structures were installed on the Magidson Farm. Previously, water ran off the barn into livestock paddocks and manure storage area.
- 6,500 feet of fencing installed on small farms.
- 6 acres of forage harvest management completed and 1.3 acres have been planted for pasture.
- Installed over 13 heavy use area protection practices and over 13 manure composting systems.
- Provided general technical assistance to over 50 landowners on Whidbey Island.

### Basic Funding

- Maintained essential district operations and financial commitments.

### Puget Sound/Water Quality

- Completed and submitted a Draft Island County Recovery Plan in Spring 2004 in partnership with other members of Island County Salmon Technical Advisory Committee.
- Riparian plantings completed on two properties in the Maxwellton Watershed involving more than 300 feet along stream corridor.
- Restoration opportunities and constraints at the headwaters of Glendale Creek currently in progress with NRCS assistance.
- Identification of critical aquifer recharge areas and associated land use practices in progress through participation on the Island County Groundwater Resource Committee.

### Professional Engineering

- Completed engineering consultation, analyses and design support for 4 landowners regarding restoration of wetland function, beaver management, surface drainage, and roof run-off structures.

## **Dairy**

- *WICD partners with Skagit Conservation District on a needs basis to serve the dairy producers on Whidbey Island.*
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## **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- *Initiated a restoration project on over 60 acres of wetland – involving five landowners – with potential funding through NRCS Wetland Reserve Program or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.*
  - *Continued service as technical advisor and voting entity on Island County Marine Resources Committee, Water Resources Advisory Committee, Salmon Technical Advisory Group, and the Island County Groundwater Committee.*
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## **Small Farm Programs**

- *All district technical assistance targets small farms on Whidbey Island. 12 comprehensive farm plans have been developed so far in 2004 with 25 site visits currently completed.*
  - *Developed resource management plans will protect over 300 acres of land. A model small farm, small farm tour, and a wildlife steward demonstration project are planned for 2004.*
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## **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- *WICD initiated and fostered an important new relationship with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Together, WICD and the Land Trust can assist landowners in all aspects of resource protection. Already, WICD and the Land Trust have worked together on 2 projects this year to serve owners of a historic farm slated for development and a group of landowners interested in restoration and easement options.*
  - *WICD has developed mutually beneficial partnerships with Snohomish Conservation District and Skagit Conservation District to share resources, technical skills, and fund development ideas to better serve Island County landowners.*
  - *WICD is focused in 2004 on developing key partnerships with Island County leaders and community organizations to establish public perception and facilitate WICD function and value as a conservation vehicle. For example, WICD is currently partnering with Susan Horton, Weed Coordinator for Island County, to write a coordinated proposal for funding a weed management project to complement farm planning.*
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## **Information & Education**

- *An award winning educational display and presentation was conducted for 4 days at the Island County Fair serving over 500 Island County residents.*
- *WICD is providing information and education regarding native plant restoration through brochures, web site, and species information pamphlets while conducting a 2004/2005 Native Plant Sale.*
- *WICD conducted a workshop regarding historic and current focus of conservation districts for natural resource protection to 10 students of Au Sable Institute.*

## **Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**

